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19 HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Thursday, November 17, 1931.

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Subject: "Dusting and Decorating Hints." Information approved by the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

Bulletin available: "Housecleaning Made Easier" and "Slip Covers"

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When it comes to dustcloths, I've always found that it pays to be generous. That's what the experts say, too. A good-sized, ample, roomy dustcloth gets the job done quickly. But a skimpy one wastes time. Naturally it takes a long time for a cloth no bigger than a pocket handkerchief to go over the surface of furniture. So choose a generous dustcloth as soft and large as you can handle easily. But be sure the cloth does not shed lint. Slightly oiled material will make a dustless dustcloth. It will save time, effort and elbow grease.

And when you dust any room plan to save steps, too. Dust the room completely as you walk around it once, doing the higher objects first and then the lower ones.

Just little things like this make cleaning an easy job instead of a dreary, dragged-out chore.

Experts suggest that the easiest procedure in cleaning a room will be something like this. First, dust the small objects. Then, cover them or set them in drawer. Next, dust the floors with a dust mop. Then, with the vacuum, go after the upholstery and rugs. If you haven't a vacuum, take the rugs out where they can be brushed on both sides. A last quick dusting will finish the room. Of course it isn't necessary to dust everything every day.

Table tops, as you may have noticed, look their best when they are polished or dusted with the grain of the wood. Instead of swishing your cloth this way and that or round and round, let your strokes be straight and full-length following the grain of the wood. And be sure, as I said, to use a generous dust cloth to save time and motion.

When it comes to dusting the lower parts of the furniture, such as the table legs near the floor or the rungs of chairs, then consider saving your back. Instead of stooping over to dust, bend only at your waist and knees, keeping the upper part of your body erect. Your reward will be less weariness and a better figure and posture.

My neighbor calls this doing her daily dozen while dusting.

...and the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) has been the most influential journal in the field of medicine for over a century.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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As for the light chairs, instead of accomodating your position to them, lift up or tilt them when you are dusting them.

Of course, you remember some of my little sermons in the past on praise of a handy cleaning kit. But I must make a few remarks on that subject again right here. A little basket, or a firm tin box with a handle to slip on one's arm, can hold soap, cloths, brushes, furniture polish, scouring powder and so on. Instead of running back for the soap or the cleaning cloth when you are right in the middle of a job, this cleaning kit enables you to take everything you need with you--to keep all materials right at your elbow.

You know what mean remarks you have made about the plumber who has to go back for a tool. You know what you think about the carpenter who hasn't organized his equipment and returns for a saw or a screw driver. We housewives need to take that same attitude toward our own cooking and cleaning jobs. For efficiency, assemble all the necessary utensils where they are to be used before you begin the job, and keep them at hand wherever you are working.

Now let's turn from cleaning to furnishing our house. Something about this month of November always seems to make us housekeepers turn a critical eye on the furnishings of the living room, or the dining room, or the upstairs sitting room. We take to rearranging things, moving the easy chair over into another corner, changing the rugs, or rehangng the pictures to make things a little different and more cozy for the winter.

"Is there any rule for placing rugs correctly?" my friend, the bride, asked me the other day.

Far be it from me to suggest hard and fast rules, to lay down any laws about such an individual matter as house furnishing. But successful decorators have made suggestions that can be used as guides. Generally, they say, it's best to see that rugs follow the structural lines of the room. In other words, don't place your rugs cornerwise or cat-a-cornered. The fad of having all the furnishings and particularly the rugs ajar and on the bias has gone out. Praises be for that. Such an arrangement always made me fidgetty because the room had such a confused and disorderly look. Any room artistically furnished is restful instead of irritating.

Another question about rugs that frequently comes up is: "How much floor should be covered and how much left exposed?"

I can't answer that by rule either. Some floors are so beautiful in themselves that they should certainly be allowed to show a good deal of themselves. Others are best entirely covered.

Decorators say that when you use a large rug in a room, the less the margin of uncovered floor space you have around the edge, the larger the room appears. In a small room many small rugs tend to cut up the floor space and detract from the room.



1. The first part of the report is a summary of the work done during the year.

2. The second part is a detailed account of the work done during the year, and is divided into two main sections: (a) the work done during the first half of the year, and (b) the work done during the second half of the year.

3. The third part is a summary of the work done during the year, and is divided into two main sections: (a) the work done during the first half of the year, and (b) the work done during the second half of the year.

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6. The sixth part is a summary of the work done during the year, and is divided into two main sections: (a) the work done during the first half of the year, and (b) the work done during the second half of the year.

7. The seventh part is a summary of the work done during the year, and is divided into two main sections: (a) the work done during the first half of the year, and (b) the work done during the second half of the year.

8. The eighth part is a summary of the work done during the year, and is divided into two main sections: (a) the work done during the first half of the year, and (b) the work done during the second half of the year.

9. The ninth part is a summary of the work done during the year, and is divided into two main sections: (a) the work done during the first half of the year, and (b) the work done during the second half of the year.

R-H.C.

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Then there's that question of when to use a plain rug or carpet and when to use a figured one. There are lots of things to be considered in answering that. In choosing a rug you have to think of the appropriateness to your type of house, its suitability to the room and other furnishings. The floor and walls with their covering, you see, make the foundation or background for everything else put in the room.

Too many plain surfaces make a room look dull and monotonous. On the other hand, too many patterns and colors give a disturbed, confused appearance.

The last year or so decorators seem to have been more and more partial to the plain rug of a neutral color as a background for hangings and upholstery. A plain floor makes a room look larger. A figured rug makes it appear smaller. So a room that is very large and likely to look bare is often given a more cozy and homelike appearance by a figured rug in a small all-over design.

And, by the way, here's another rug suggestion. Small rooms which are closely connected, as in a small apartment, are best carpeted alike. This gives a feeling of space and unity instead of the choppy appearance often found when, for example, the hallway is carpeted in green, the living room in blue, and the dining room in red.

I know a man who has been bemoaning the fact that the cover of his favorite easy chair, which he loves beyond most other things in this world, is wearing out. His wife says it looks too shabby to stand in the living room anymore, and they can't afford to have the chair re-upholstered or to buy a new one. This man says that if that chair goes to the attic, he'll just have to spend his evenings up there too. What would you do in such a case?

I'll tell you what I suggested. A slip cover. If that wife wants to make everybody happy all around she'll get some attractive material that looks like an upholstery fabric and that will harmonize with the other furnishings in her living room and make a slip cover to go on that chair. That's the easiest and cheapest way I know to get a new chair from an old one.

I'm sending this lady a copy of our slip cover leaflet. I would send one to you also, if I had your name and address.

Tomorrow: "What the Children Read and Why."

